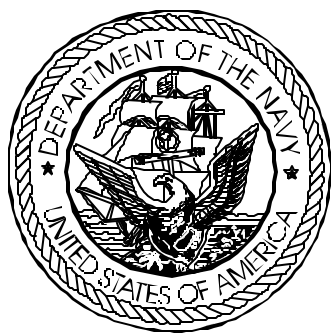


LESSON 4: THE U.S. NAVY



amphibious
aweigh
commerce
frigates
mobilization
operational
sea power
strategic



INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy is the branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that maintains command of the seas. The Navy is able to seek out and destroy enemies on, under, or above the sea. If attacked, it can return the blow almost anywhere on earth from its warships. Navy task forces can carry naval aircraft to any danger point, powerful naval **amphibious** forces can support troop landings against heavy enemy resistance, and nuclear-powered submarines can fire missiles at targets thousands of miles away. Any enemy that might attack the United States must expect counterblows from these forces, whose exact locations cannot be pinpointed in advance.

The Navy also serves as an instrument of international relations in times of peace. It is possible that the presence of naval vessels may be helpful in keeping a crisis from developing into

war. Additionally, the Navy engages in actions such as carrying food and medical supplies to disaster areas and in assisting merchant and passenger ships in emergencies.

BACKGROUND

The Continental Congress founded the U.S. Navy on October 13, 1775, when it passed legislation to purchase and arm two ships. Congress set up a naval committee to administer naval affairs and to build and equip warships. This was the creation of the Continental Navy. The date of October 13 is now regarded as the official birthday of the U.S. Navy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Confederate coastline, broken by numerous inlets and 189 rivers, stretched from the Potomac River to the Rio Grande — 3,500 miles.

The Union commissioned the *Monitor* on February 25, 1862. Its design included as many as 40 new patents, its deck was armor plated, it was steam powered, and the 14-ton turret could revolve 360 degrees. Its major battle was against the Confederate's *Merrimack* on March 9, 1862. The *Monitor* won.

When the Founding Fathers created the *U.S. Constitution*, they also provided for the establishment of the Navy in Article I, Section 8, which states that “The Congress shall have the power to provide and maintain a Navy.” Congress then authorized the establishment of the Navy and directed that a set of regulations be developed to run it.

During the American Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783), about 50 vessels served in the Continental Navy. The Navy discontinued operations after that war and, in 1785, the last warship was sold. However, Congress soon realized the need for another fleet. In 1794, Congress voted to build six **frigates** to fight the Barbary pirates off North Africa who preyed on American merchant ships. This seagoing force operated under the Secretary of War. The launching of the *United States* in 1797 marked the rebirth of the U.S. Navy.

The Civil War (1861 – 1865) had a tremendous impact on the growth of the Navy. When the war began in 1861, the Union had just 41 vessels in commission — half of which were officially obsolete, and the Confederacy did not even have a navy. Although the South tried to build innovative naval units for its harbor and coastal defense, it was never able to match the North's **sea power**.

During the Civil War, the Union Navy grew to more than 600 ships, including 60 armored ironclads and monitors. Nearly 60,000 officers and men served in the Union Navy, which had numbered only about 9,000 at the start of the war. It is indisputable that the Navy played a vital role in the outcome of that war for the Union.

After the Civil War, the Department of War reduced the size of the Navy to a number of ships that was not adequate for the United States to defend itself. This condition persisted until 1889, when the German Kaiser tried to gain control of the Samoan Islands. The Kaiser had a strong, well-equipped navy, but a hurricane and tidal wave destroyed some of his ships and prevented a battle. As a result of this threatened conflict, U.S. military leaders realized they needed to strengthen the nation's sea power. A

shipbuilding and training program was started to upgrade the readiness of the Navy, which ultimately resulted in the Navy's success in defeating the Spanish fleet during the Spanish-American War in 1898.

MISSIONS

The Navy's overall mission is to *maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas*. Under the direction of the President and Secretary of Defense, the Navy has four primary missions during times of war; they are to:

- Seek out and destroy enemy forces at sea.
- Destroy or reduce enemy sea **commerce**.
- Maintain control of the seas.
- Conduct land, sea or air operations as needed to achieve these goals.

In simple terms, the Navy will attempt to stop any ocean threat by destroying enemy aircraft, surface ships, and submarines. Every day, naval forces stress U.S. commitments and interests around the world. Their presence is a physical demonstration of the country's will to keep peace and to honor its treaties. In that regard, the Navy has three main roles: strategic nuclear deterrence, overseas naval deployment, and sea-lines-of-communication security.

The Navy must carry out national policies and support our forces and our allies wherever they may be. It must protect the right of our maritime ships to move about freely on the oceans. It must provide a first line of defense in protecting our country against aggressors. It is the role of each person in the Navy to assist in the implementation of our nation's foreign policy. A foreign policy is an expression of a nation's attitude or

posture toward other nations. All nations have some sort of foreign policy.

ORGANIZATION

The U.S. Navy operates under the Department of the Navy — a Military Department of the Department of Defense. The Secretary of the Navy, a civilian appointed by the President but subject to Senate approval, heads the entire naval establishment and is responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense. The Chief of Naval Operations is the Navy's highest-ranking officer, who serves as the Secretary of the Navy's principal naval adviser and represents the Navy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Department of the Navy has two principal subordinate components. They are:

- The Operating Forces — include the *U.S. Marine Corps* (headed by a Commandant who reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy), *reserve components*, and, in time of war, the *U.S. Coast Guard* (in peace, a component of the Department of Transportation)
- The Shore Establishment

Other special commands under the Chief of Naval Operations include the **Operational Test and Evaluation Forces**, **Naval Special Warfare Command**, and **Military Sealift Command**.

OPERATING FORCES (“FLEET FORCES”)

World War II left the Navy with enough ships to maintain a two-ocean capability. Although the Navy's force structure and force deployment change as a result of conflicts around the globe, the chart in the next column shows the deployment of forces as of January 1999.

As naval units enter into a particular area of responsibility, the Navy operationally assigns them to the appropriate fleet. These fleets are then divided into task forces that perform specific tasks and meet the changing needs of the Navy. All Navy units also have an administrative chain of command with the various ships reporting to the appropriate commander.

- ✓ The *Third* and *Seventh Fleets* are under the Pacific Fleet Command (with its headquarters at Pearl Harbor, HI). *
- ✓ The *Second Fleet* is under the Atlantic Fleet Command (with its headquarters at the Norfolk Naval Base, VA). *
- ✓ The *Sixth Fleet* (located in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and adjacent areas) is under U.S. Naval Forces Europe.
- ✓ The *Fifth Fleet* is under the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

**Include(s) Fleet Marine forces*

TYPES OF SHIPS

Based on the Navy's two principal weapon systems, conventional and nuclear, its operating forces and types of ships can also be divided into those same categories. For example, conventional operating forces include combat and support ships, the major vessels of which include aircraft carriers, attack submarines, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, amphibious ships, and mobile logistics support ships.

Combat ships of the U.S. Navy include warships, amphibious warfare ships, and mine warfare ships. Smaller vessels — called combatant crafts — patrol coastlines, land

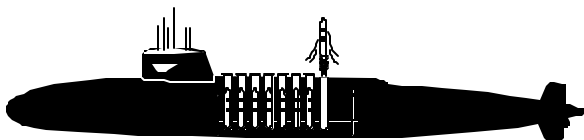
troops, and operate on rivers and shallow waterways. Auxiliary ships give additional help and provide maintenance, fuel, supplies, towing, and other services to warships. There are four main kinds of auxiliary ships:

- ✓ Underway replenishment ships
- ✓ Fleet support ships
- ✓ Sealift ships
- ✓ Experimental, research, and surveying ships

NAVY'S STRATEGIC CAPABILITY

The Navy's **strategic** capability in case of general or nuclear war is built around the Trident missile, a third-generation submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) system, following the earlier Polaris and Poseidon missiles. The first Trident missile became operational in 1980. In 1989, the Navy tested a larger Trident missile that has a range of 7,000 miles and carries up to 14 individually targetable re-entry vehicles (warheads). A stellar-inertial navigation system gives the Trident accuracy equivalent to its land-based counterparts, even though it is launched from a moving platform that may be underwater.

Since the advent of nuclear-armed submarine-launched ballistic missiles, submarines have become the most powerfully armed and strategically important of all warships, playing two distinct roles. They can act as an attack vessel, armed with torpedoes and missiles, to attack other ships, or they can act as a floating platform for long-range missiles. These submarines are also operated by the Russian, British, French, and Chinese navies.



Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)

NAVAL AVIATION

Naval aviation provides striking power, versatility, and mobility. Naval aviation helps the Navy control the seas, take part in amphibious attacks, and strike at strategic shore targets. Navy pilots fly light and medium attack planes based on aircraft carriers. A carrier is a self-supporting base at sea when it is part of a carrier group or task force. Aircraft carriers can concentrate air power without the cost and time needed to build an air base. Carriers can provide faster and more frequent strikes from a shorter range than land-based aircraft. The Navy's fighter planes are designed for low speed landings and take-offs from carriers, providing the ability to put U.S. military forces in many areas of the world without the need of shore bases.

SHORE ESTABLISHMENT

The Shore Establishment provides:

- ✓ Support to the operating forces in the form of personnel and legal services
- ✓ Air bases
- ✓ Communications centers
- ✓ Training areas and simulators
- ✓ Ship and aircraft repair and storage areas for repair parts, fuel, and munitions
- ✓ Intelligence, meteorological, and oceanographic support
- ✓ Facilities for the repair of machinery and electronics
- ✓ Medical and dental facilities
- ✓ Commands for naval, sea, and air systems; space; space and naval warfare systems; and naval doctrine

Naval bases are the centers for supporting activities of the fleet. They may include a naval shipyard, naval air station, or naval station — which performs administrative and housekeeping duties. Base commanders also coordinate naval activities in their geographic areas.

NAVAL RESERVES

NAVAL RESERVE FORCE

The mission of the U.S. Naval Reserve Force is to *provide mission-capable units and individuals to the Navy/Marine Corps Team throughout the full range of operations from peace to war*. In today's setting, this mission takes on added meaning and responsibilities as the Naval Reserve Force is called upon to play an increasingly active role in the day-to-day planning and operational requirements of the active Navy. The Naval Reserve Force represents 20 percent of the Navy's total assets and is a significant force multiplier the Navy must have to meet its growing global commitments.

Operations "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm" (1990-91) gave dramatic evidence that the Naval Reserve Force is an effective and vital part of the operational capabilities of the Navy during an emergency. Over 20,000 Naval Reservists were called for active duty ranging from medical to fleet intelligence support personnel. These "civilian" sailors responded and exceeded expectations in accomplishing their tasks.

The Naval Reserve Force consists of the Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and Retired Reserve — numbering over 690,000 people. The Ready Reserve is made up of the Selected Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve. The Selected Reserve is the Navy's

primary source of immediate **mobilization** manpower, and represents those reservists who are paid either as weekend "drillers" or in full-time support on active duty status in the training and administration of the Naval Reserve Force program.

The Naval Reserve Force is headquartered in New Orleans. The Commander of Naval Reserve Force functions as a director on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations and as an adviser on naval reserve matters to Congress.

NAVAL SURFACE RESERVE FORCE

The Navy Department in 1887 prepared a plan where the Secretary of the Navy was given authority to lend each state having a naval militia one of the Navy's older ships, as well as equipment, to promote drills and instruction. In 1915, Congress formally created a Federal Naval Reserve, the ancestor organization of today's Naval Surface Reserve Force.

The Surface Reserve Force comprises men and women who serve at home and abroad, on shore and at sea, on active duty and on the drill deck. They are not just "weekend warriors" anymore. They can be found on station around the world 24 hours a day, augmenting the fleet as an active part of the Navy. The Surface Reserve Force maintains assigned personnel and equipment in a state of readiness and availability that permits rapid augmentation into the fleet upon partial or full mobilization.

NAVAL AIR RESERVE FORCE

In 1916, Congress passed the *Naval Reserve Appropriations Act* that established the Naval Reserve Flying Corps. About seven months later, 12 students from Yale led by F. Trubee Davison volunteered for the first Naval Air Reserve flying squadron. From that beginning,

Naval Air Reservists have served in every crisis that has confronted the nation, including World Wars I and II, Korea, the Berlin Airlift, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm.

In 1983, the Naval Air Reserve Force was created as a separate command within the Naval Reserve Force structure. The Naval Air Reserve Force has 39 squadrons equipped with the most modern aircraft, including the F/A-18 Hornet and the F-14 Tomcat, among others.

TRADITION

Naval history tells of John Paul Jones, whose battle cry, "*I have not yet begun to fight*," helped to establish the Navy's fighting traditions. Common to the Navy are the names of famous ships, such as the Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered warship. The Navy emblem was adopted in 1957. "Anchors **Aweigh**" is the Navy's marching song. Blue and gold are its colors.